



MONTGOMERY/CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY NEWS

Office Hours
8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Monday – Friday
Ph (620) 331-4860
FAX (620) 331- 7951

United States Department of Agriculture
Montgomery/Chautauqua County Farm Service Agency
410 Peter Pan Road, Suite A
Independence, KS 67301-9309

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Lisa M. Hall
County Executive Director
e-mail: lisa.hall@ks.usda.gov



REPORTING 2008 CROP ACREAGE

It goes by different names—crop report, acreage report, crop certification—but regardless of what you call it, filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. Crop reports, form FSA-578, Report of Acreage, must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Producers are required to file reports by **June 2nd** for small grains. Reports for feed grains, cotton, soybeans, sunflowers, and CRP must be reported by August 1. When reporting acreages, producers will also need to provide planting dates. If the June 2 and August 1 deadlines are not met, producers will be required to pay for a field visit at a minimum charge of \$46 per farm.

CDP EXPANDED TO INCLUDE 2007 SPRING CROPS

On December 26, 2007, the President signed into law the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriation Act, 2008 (2008 Act). The 2008 Act now allows for 2007 spring crops to be included for loss purposes under CDP. Producers who made applications for CDP prior to that date should check with the office to see if they are entitled to additional benefits on 2007 spring planted crops.

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops. Losses from natural disasters may qualify for financial assistance. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 will be eligible to receive benefits in **only one year**. Participants may apply for loss benefits on multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year the loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have also suffered quantity losses in excess of 35% to be eligible for CDP.

LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM (LCP)

The sign-up for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) began September 10, 2007. LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses resulting from natural disasters occurring between Jan, 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007. Area producers are eligible due to a drought designation in 2006. Eligible livestock must be owned and physically located on a farm in the administrative county as of Jan. 1, 2006 to allow the livestock and any grazing/feed losses to be eligible for payment. Livestock must also have been retained into the May 1 – Oct. 31 grazing season to be considered eligible unless additional feed costs were incurred prior to the grazing season. Producers will need to be able to identify pastures on a map, provide a percent of grazing loss for each, and if

needed, provide evidence of ownership, feed records and other supporting documents. The payment rates vary for livestock type and weight. Producers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in LCP benefits. Additional information is available at your local FSA office.

FARM RECORD CHANGES

If you have bought, sold, or are renting different land, make sure you report the changes to the FSA office as soon as possible after they occur but no later than **September 30**. Proof of ownership is required to record changes and can include a copy of the deed, land contract or a real estate tax assessment or bill. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and fines. It is also the producer's responsibility to notify FSA of **ANY** changes in their farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Changes that may affect a determination include, but are not limited to, a change in contract shares which may reflect changes from cash rent to share rent or from share rent to cash rent; a change in the size of the producer's farming operation by the addition or deletion of a farm; a change in the structure of the farming operation, including any change in the member's shares; a change in contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management; and a change of farming interest not previously disclosed on CCC-502 or update, including the farming interests of a spouse or minor child.

FARM STORAGE LOANS AVAILABLE

FSA has a Farm-Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) Program available to eligible producers. Producers can borrow up to 85% of the cost, not to exceed \$100,000, to build new or remodel existing permanent storage facilities or drying or handling equipment for up to 7 years. A minimum down payment of the difference is required. The interest rate is equivalent to the rate charged on U.S. Treasury securities of comparable maturity loan amount and is fixed for the life of the loan. March interest rate is 3.125%



WEBSITES

FSA - www.fsa.usda.gov
Kansas FSA - www.fsa.usda.gov/ks
USDA - www.usda.gov
Obtain a Level 2 e-Authentication Account -
www.eauth.egov.usda.gov

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Special Accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA office and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are needed.

FARM BILL EXTENDED UNTIL APRIL 18th

The Senate and House passed a bill to extend current farm law for another month. The extension will push the expiration date of the current farm law from March 15 to April 18. As more information becomes available it will be released through different media sources.

DESIGNATION BY LANDOWNER

Producers are reminded of the importance of reporting to their local FSA office any change to their farming operation that would affect the status of that farm so the change can be effective for the current fiscal year. A special provision exists that allows the contract acres to be divided in a manner agreed to by all sellers and buyers. The method known as "Designation by Landowner" provision must be requested and requires all buyers and sellers agree to the method by signing the FSA-155, Request for Farm Reconstitution, or providing a memorandum of understanding that includes the signatures of all buyers and sellers. These requests must be made by **June 1**.

COUNTY COMMITTEE SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS

The consolidation of the Montgomery and Chautauqua Counties Offices has created 5 new Local Administrative Areas (LAA). The County Committee is currently made up of 3 LAA's located in Montgomery County and 2 LAA's located in Chautauqua County. A special election was recently held for LAA-3, LAA-4, and LAA-5. Robert Casey was re-elected to represent LAA-3. Jerry Barnett is the newly elected member representing LAA-4. Joe Reed is the newly elected member from LAA-5. These members are joined by Melvin Gordon from LAA-1 and Chuck Springer from LAA-2. We appreciate all the member's willingness to serve on the committee. In addition, to the committee members, the State has appointed Bonnie Oliver as the minority advisor. We thank Bonnie for accepting this appointment.

USDA LOANS HELP FAMILY SIZE FARMS

The US Department of Agriculture offers low interest loans for family-size farms to help with operating expense and purchasing land. If you are a US citizen or legal resident alien and cannot get a loan from a commercial or Ag lender or from the Farm Credit Association, the Farm Service Agency may be able to help you. Our loans for operating expenses have up to 7-year payments terms, and our loans for land purchases have payment terms up to 40 years.

For more information on our farm loans, call the Independence Farm Service Agency today at (620) 331-1670 for Montgomery County residents or the Winfield Farm Service Agency at (620) 221-2060 for Chautauqua County residents. USDA is an equal opportunity lender.

EMPLOYEE CHANGES

On October 31st, 2007, Ione Cain, Program Technician, retired from the Montgomery County Farm Service Agency. Ione provided 28 years of service to the United States Department of Agricultural in Montgomery, Elk, and Lane Counties. We appreciate Ione's service to the agency and to area farmers and we wish her the best in her retirement.

Due to office consolidations and restructuring Roxie Cummings, Program Technician, has transferred to the Montgomery/Chautauqua County Office. Before arriving at the Independence Service Center she served 28 years in the Chautauqua County Office and 2 years in the Elk/Chautauqua County Office. We appreciate Roxie continuing her service in our office.

Sara Smith, Program Technician, has been converted to a permanent employee. She has worked as a temporary employee in the Chautauqua County Office and the Elk/Chautauqua County Office. In February, she joined the Montgomery/Chautauqua County office. We are glad to have Sara on board.

NATIONAL AG WEEK

National Ag Week is being celebrated March 16-22 all across the United States, and Wednesday, March 20, has been designated as "National Ag Day". Visit www.agday.org for more fun farm facts.

- Lettuce is a member of the sunflower family.
- Eating about 20 tart cherries a day could reduce inflammatory pain and headache pain.
- Eggs age more in one day at room temperature than in one week in the refrigerator.
- Bananas are about 99.5% fat free.
- Pumpkins were once recommended for removing freckles and curing snake bites!

Montgomery County FSA Committee:

Robert Casey, Chairperson;
Chuck Springer, Vice-Chairperson;
Jerry Barnett, Member;
Melvin Gordon, Member;
Joe Reed, Member;
Bonnie Oliver, Minority Advisor.

Committee meets 1st Wednesday of each month at 9:00 am in the USDA Service Center meeting room at 410 Peter Pan Road in Independence.